

SPORTS

HIS MISPLAY COST GIANTS A PENNANT

But Fred Merkle Has Lived Down Hoodoo.

EVERS CAUGHT HIM NAPPING

When Bridwell Smashed a Single to Center In Historical Ninth Inning Merkle, Who Was on First, Started For Clubhouse—Now With Club Which Benefited by Error.

When Charles H. Ebbets, president of the Brooklyn ball club, announced that Fred Merkle, veteran first sacker, had been sold to Chicago, by a strange turn of fortune's wheel Merkle found himself with the club which his own misplay gave the National league championship to and lost the title for the Giants nine years ago. The stretch had been reached in the race for the pennant in the National league in 1908. The Giants and the Cubs were fighting neck and neck in a battle for the lead. At the Polo grounds on Sept. 23, 1908, they met in one of the games of the crucial series.

With the teams doctored in the last half of the ninth, two out, McCormick on third and Merkle on first, Bridwell smashed a single to center, driving McCormick home with what ordinarily would have been the winning run. All hands, including Merkle, started a rush for the clubhouse.

But wily, heady Johnny Evers, the Chicago second baseman, who a week before had failed to lead the team to a victory at Pittsburgh against the same two umpires, Hank O'Day and Bob



Photo by American Press Association. FRED MERKLE.

Emslie, neither of whom had noticed the Pirate base runner's failure to touch second base, shouted to O'Day and Emslie to notice Merkle had not touched second base and then yelled for Single to throw in the ball. Jimmy tossed the ball to Evers, who touched second and called for a decision.

O'Day called Merkle out. The crowd, which had rushed on the field when McCormick raced across the platter with what every one thought was the winning run, prevented the teams from resuming play. The New York club protested O'Day's decision, but it was sustained by President Pulliam of the National league, and the game was ordered replayed on Oct. 8. The championship of the National league hinged on the one game. The Cubs captured the contest and the title. The Cubs then won the world's series in four out of five games from Detroit.

Merkle's unfortunate play caused him to be harshly criticized throughout the circuit and gained him a reputation of being a "homehead." Yet experts and players recognized Merkle as one of the coolest, headiest and quickest thinking men in baseball. McGraw recognized his efficiency and stuck to Merkle. Fred rewarded the little Napoleon with eight years of faithful service, and McGraw says no man did more than Merkle to bring the championships of 1911, 1912 and 1913 to New York.

Fred played fifteen games for the Giants in 1907. He was utility man in 1908, but became the regular first baseman in 1909. He remained with the Giants until last season, when he went to Brooklyn in the deal by which McGraw secured Lew McCarty for the Giants. Fred is only twenty-eight years of age and has lots of baseball left in him. He was born in Watertown, Wis., Dec. 20, 1888.

Home Baker Injured. Sorrow was expressed when it was announced that Homer Baker, international half mile champion, had wrenched his left shoulder and had torn ligaments in his left leg. He fell from a car and the platform in the New York subway. It is doubtful if he ever will do any running again. He injured his left leg in a motorcycle accident two years ago. Baker is now busy recruiting athletes for an aero corps.

SCOOP

The Copy Boy and Printer Left the Week Before.

The following is an ad in "The American Press": "Wanted, a man to take entire charge of my weekly paper while I go to war; place may be permanent. N. M. H. Mounds, III." Wonder why Sherman didn't include editing of a country weekly in his definition of war?

AT HOME MONDAY.

A record of the Badgers shows that no less than fourteen of their members remained home Monday evening. Charter members of the organization were among those who would not venture out, friends are at a loss to explain the situation.

THEY WON'T ASK YOU THESE:

The following are a few questions which will NOT BE ASKED on registration day, June 5:
How much money have you in the bank?
Do you think Ty Cobb will lead the American league batsmen?
Is your favorite color pink?
Is Douglas Fairbanks the most popular of the movie stars?
Did you march in the parade Patriotic Day, May 30?
Where do you expect to spend the 4th of July?
What is your favorite flower?
Do you think Ottawa needs new paving?

REGISTER JUNE 5 AND ESCAPE.

MOTHER-IN-LAWS.
GAY BILLS.
TAXES.
GARLIC EATERS.
MOVIE PESTS.
H. H. OF L.
ETC. ETC.

His Spats.

"And do you mean to say you and your husband never had any spats?" "My husband had a pair once, sir, at he gave 'em to the boy who sprang our grass."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

STANDING OF CLUBS

AMERICAN LEAGUE. W L Pct.

Boston	18 10	.653
New York	17 10	.630
Chicago	22 13	.629
Cleveland	18 17	.514
St. Louis	15 18	.455
Washington	13 17	.433
Detroit	11 18	.379
Philadelphia	9 20	.310

Yesterday's Results. Philadelphia, 3; Cleveland, 1.

Games Today. Washington at Chicago; Philadelphia at Detroit.

Boston at St. Louis; New York at Cleveland.

NATIONAL LEAGUE. W L Pct.

Philadelphia	18 9	.667
New York	16 9	.640
Chicago	22 13	.629
St. Louis	15 14	.517
Cincinnati	14 19	.424
Brooklyn	10 15	.400
Boston	9 15	.375
Pittsburgh	11 21	.344

Yesterday's Results. Pittsburgh, 8; Chicago, 6.

Pittsburgh, 2; New York, 0.

Brooklyn, 3; St. Louis, 1.

Cincinnati at Boston—Rain.

Games Today. Chicago at New York; Cincinnati at Philadelphia.

St. Louis at Boston; Pittsburgh at Brooklyn.

NATIONAL LEAGUE. At Philadelphia. R H E

Philadelphia	8 8 2
Chicago	6 9 3

Batteries—Elliot, Wilson, Seaton, Albridge, Runkle; Killefer, Lavender, Oeschger.

NATIONAL LEAGUE. At New York. R H E

Pittsburgh	2 7 1
New York	0 4 2

Batteries—Flaher, Miller, McCarty, Anderson, Smith, Benton.

At Brooklyn. R H E

Brooklyn	3 8 0
St. Louis	1 4 1

Batteries—Gonzales, Horstman, Watson, Omliler, Combe.

AMERICAN LEAGUE. At Cleveland. R H E

Philadelphia	3 8 0
Cleveland	1 9 1

Batteries—Schang, Falkenberg, O'Neil, Morton, Combe.

NO ACTION ON BOXING BY SENATE LICENSE COMMITTEE

Springfield, Ill., May 23—There was no quorum of the senate license committee tonight after repeated attempts and no action on the boxing bill. It probably will be reported out today.

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN

Copyright.



OWNERS OF RACE HORSES SPEND LARGE SUMS EVERY YEAR TO SECURE JOCKEYS OF ABILITY

New York, May 23—Owners of thoroughbred race horses spend many thousands of dollars every year as retainers for the jockeys. They lay out fat rolls of perfectly good currency before a race is run, and the fact that they do this seems to offset the old saying that great horses make great jockeys.

The season of 1917 in the East, despite the war, gives promise of being a highly successful one, for the classes that have already been run have met with unusual success, and the real blue ribbon events are yet to come.

Among the "jocks" who will stride the bluebloods of the turf in the East this season are the cream of the country. The jockey market is good, to say the least, and some of them are just as prominent under present conditions as were the great jockeys of the past.

Like Johnny Reid, Danny Maher, Tod Sloan, Eddie Dominich and Joe Redfern, the topnotch "jocks" of the present day draw down thousands of dollars annually for their services. Prominent among the present day jockeys who will ride in the East this year are Tommy McTaggart, Jimmy Butwell, Joey Notter, Joe Byrne, Johnny Loftus and Andy Shuttlinger.

McTaggart was the last of the veteran jockeys to find a berth, for the reason that he held out for big money until the right offer came along. He will ride under the colors of John Sanford, and he will get in the neighborhood of \$2,000 monthly for piloting Sanford's horses. His brother, Johnny McTaggart, will ride this year for R. T. Wilson, Jr. The younger McTaggart was a big success last year. He rode Campfire to his two-year-old title and was astraddle Belmont's Friar Rock in the final victory of the Stratus Cup.

BALL PLAYER NOW MAYOR.

Hickman Held American League Record For Hitting as a First Baseman.

Charlie Hickman, who holds the American league record for hitting as a first baseman and who for four years held an average of higher than .300 with the stout stick and who in addition played at not less than seven different positions while a big leaguer and with seven different big league clubs, was elected recently to the somewhat distinguished position of mayor of Morgantown, one of West Virginia's most thriving cities, which boasts a population of between 15,000 and 20,000 and which is the seat of West Virginia university.

Hickman started out playing baseball there in 1896, went from Morgantown to Newcastle, Pa., in the old Interstate, then for three years with the Boston Nationals, two years with the New York Giants, now as a third baseman, then to the newly organized Boston American league team, then three years at Cleveland, where he played at first base; then a year at Detroit in the outfield, two and a half years with the Washington American league team, half a year with the Chicago White Sox, back to Cleveland for a year, and then three years with the Toledo American association team, after which he said good-bye to the diamond game as a player forever.

Young Hickman a Speeder.

Young Hickman, the Brooklyn's extra outfielder, is said to be the fastest runner in the big leagues. He is rather short and thick set, but he can fly over the ground when he gets under full headway. Hickman's great speed enabled him to get under a torrid drive from George Burns' bat in the fourteenth inning of a recent game. He caught the ball on the left field foul line a few feet in front of the wooden barrier and ended the game. Hickman also sprinted so swiftly after Burns' rememorable drive in the twelfth that he probably prevented a home run, which would have decided the battle then and there.

MAKING OVER BALL PLAYERS

Instances Rare of Outfielders Developing Into Pitchers.

MANY BOXMEN IN OUTFIELD

Some Baseball Men Maintain That Mar-velous Twirler Was Ruined When Fred Merkle Became First Baseman. George Sisler of St. Louis Browns Can Play Any Position.

The rather unique attempt of John McGraw to turn George Kelley, the lanky outfielder, into a pitcher appears to be attracting a lot of attention among baseball people, but this trick of shifting ball players into new roles overnight is not without precedent. Memory fails to record an instance where outfielders were turned into pitchers, it is true, but the shifting of pitchers to the outfield is common.

There are many baseball men who firmly maintain to this day that a marvelous pitcher was ruined when Fred Merkle became a first baseman. Since he began work with the Giants Merkle has pitched exhibition games, and on one occasion at Newark or Jersey City he held his opponents to four hits.

It may surprise the average fan to know that Mike Donlin started out as a left handed pitcher with bright prospects. It may be equally surprising to some to know that Jack Murray entered the big league as a catcher for Philadelphia.

Fred Mitchell, manager of the Cubs, pitched regularly in the American league until something went wrong with his feet—not his arm—and he became a catcher, a good one too.

Harry Wolters was at one time a pitcher, and Beals Becker was perhaps the wildest southpaw that the game has ever known. His hitting turned him into an outfielder, but on the bases he is just as wild as ever.

During his long stay on the diamond Hans Wagner has been an outfielder, a shortstop and a first baseman. But for the fact that his terrific hitting was needed in the regular lineup he would have been a pitcher.

The oddest little things often bring about these changes. For instance, Davy Robertson came to the Giants as a pitching phenom. During the fall he played in a football game and injured his shoulder. The next spring he could not use his arm for pitching purposes and kept in condition by shagging flies in the outfield. At the Polo grounds one morning while at bat he slammed a drive into the centerfield bleachers. McGraw promptly turned him into an outfielder, and now he ranks next to Ty Cobb, according to ball players.

Jimmy Callahan was a corking pitcher for years, but could always hit. His arm went back on him once, and he was immediately shifted to the outfield, where he starred for years. Doc White was another who could pitch one day and play the outfield the next.

Perhaps the best example of versatile ball players today is George Sisler of the Browns. As a rule he plays first base, but when the club gets in a hole he goes into the box and is regarded as the best twirler on the staff. When the club wants to try out a new batsman Sisler plays the outfield. Not only can Sisler play these positions, but he can play either of them just as well as anybody else.

George Kelley, McGraw's new experiment, has a terrific fast ball, and he is of that physical build that will permit him to pitch all day if necessary. As he has little need of another outfielder, McGraw will make a ten strike if he can develop this boy into even an ordinary pitcher. George Gibson says that Kelley needs a little sharper break to his curve ball and he will be a good pitcher this season.

Two of a Kind.

"You fondle that pug puppy," complained the lover, "until I am actually jealous of him." "You're all alike," answered the girl. "This puppy is jealous of you."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Siesta taxes cats, and felines are vanishing.

Grieves' Concert Artists

Wallace Grieves Violinist

Lillian Wright Soprano

Lyell Barber Pianist.

First Baptist Church

Thursday Evening, May 24, 8:15

Adults . . 50c Students . . 25c

Tickets on sale at Geiger's confectionery, Keeler & Kroehne's and Weiss' drug shop.

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And you will have, with interest at 3 per cent.

\$ 37.02 in one year \$ 75.30 in two years

114.64 in three years 155.17 in four years

\$196.94 in five years.

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NOTE—When in Stretor visit our stores for Fine Confectioneries and Light Lunches. The Chocolate Shop and Sterling Candy Kitchen.

BASILION & GEOVANCES, Proprietors.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS, Street Sweeping.

Sealed bids will be received by the undersigned until Friday, May 25, 1917, 9 o'clock a. m., for the sweeping of paved streets as per specifications on file in city office.

W. W. CURTIS, City Clerk.

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723 La Salle Street